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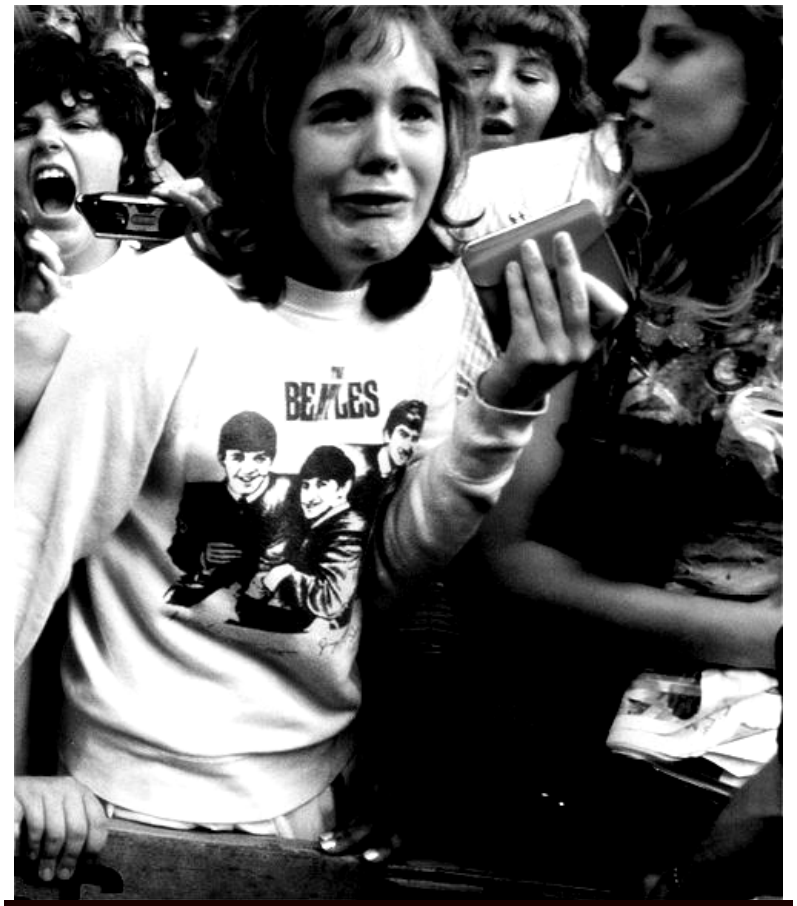
WASHING MACHINE MUSIC

Issue #2 - January 2026

THE BEATLES AND THE YOUTH WHO LOVE THEM



Plus: Why Green Day Don't Totally Suck (Yes, Really)

Name: Y
Age: 16
Favorite Album: Abbey Road
Favorite Beatle: George

How and when did you start listening to The Beatles?

I always grew up with the Beatles songs because my Dad plays guitar and sings a lot, although I never bothered to learn much about their stories as a young kid.
My first exposure to anything Beatles related was when my mum suggested I sing Imagine by John Lennon for the talent show when I was 6. My first memory of consciously listening to a Beatles song was when I was 8, playing Roblox on the couch when my Dad was playing 'I Will' on piano (I only had the revelation it was a Beatles song until later).

My 12-year old sister began her obsession with them at the start of this year (2025). I grew up surrounded by the songs of this band and I'd never bothered to learn much about them. So, this year I became a superfan mainly because she was one too.

Why do you love the Beatles/Why are they so important to you?

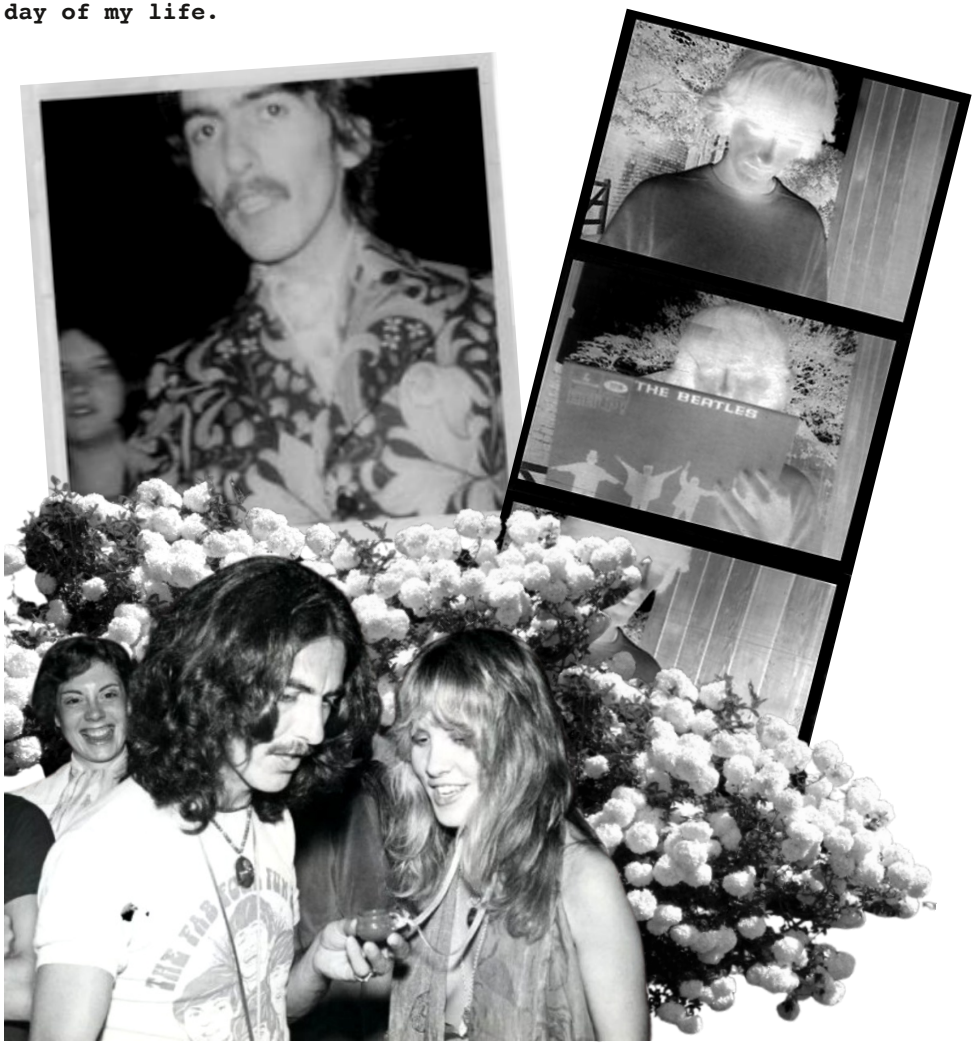
Their songs feel like a story everyone is a part of. I have many fond memories tied to Beatles songs and I'm sure millions of people around the world do too. Their music and stories are still highly relevant and many people grew up with them, so it feels like everyone plays a tiny part in the long story of the Beatles.

Also, I found one of my best friends because we both shared an interest in the Beatles. We play their songs together and talk about them a lot.

George is my favorite Beatle because...

George is my favourite Beatle because he was very open with his spirituality and was a huge part of a movement of peace, which is admirable. Also, I love his guitar parts and I love all the songs he wrote and sang in the Beatles and his solo career. He inspires me a lot as a songwriter and I also love his sense of style.

I also feel very connected to John though. Our birthdays fall on the same day and most of my favourite Beatles songs were written by him. I also admire his fight for peace too. I actually visited his Central Park memorial on my trip to NYC and it was the funnest day of my life.



Name: Alex Fons
Age: 20
Favorite Album: The White Album
Favorite Beatle: Paul

How and when did you start listening to The Beatles?

I started listening to The Beatles when I was 13 because I loved the new McCartney album "Egypt Station" and I was obsessed with his MV for "Who Cares" with Emma Stone (I loved La La Land :3), my algorithm clutched and recommended me the Help! MV...the rest is history!

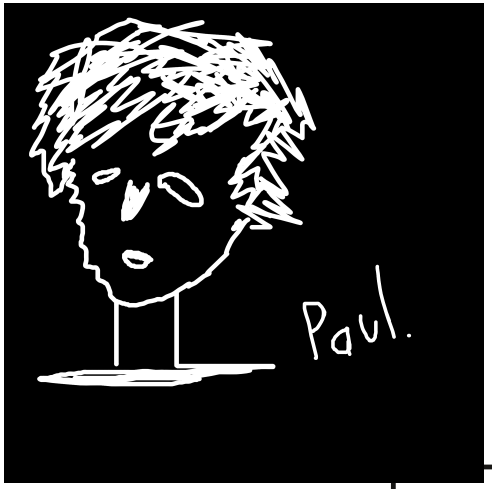
Why do you love the Beatles/Why are they so important to you?

I love The Beatles because they literally feel like home to me. I have heard their music so much throughout all my teens in a way in which I can no longer even picture them as humans playing the songs, I can't even THINK OF THEM as songs. It's just a colorful experience of being home.

Growing with The Beatles also means growing in different shapes to accommodate one's love for them. I went through a "OMG With The Beatles is their best album of all time" phase, a "George Harrison was the best Beatle" phase, a John phase, a deep cute phase. They have fit different gloves for me in my life and I guess I've become different people for them too. Right now particularly I'm in my "session wiz" era, in which I'm obsessed with knowing the story behind all their musical sessions, but I'm sure I'll get obsessed with a different aspect of them later <3

Paul is my favorite Beatle because...

Not only is he a fantastic songwriter, producer, musician and gives amazing concerts to this day, but he has so many little contributions to everyone's songs in their catalogue that just have to give him the top spot. The solo in Taxman, the mellotron on Strawberry Fields, the piano intro on While My Guitar Gently Weeps. He's not "cool" like John and he's not "deep" like George (my two previous faves), but he's a melody machine with impeccable ear, commendable perfectionism and it is such a blessing looking at him on Get Back (the documentary) and seeing how masterpieces literally flow out of him like a disease the moment he touches any instrument.



Art by Alex Fons

Name: James G
Age: 22
Favorite Album: A Hard Day's Night
Favorite Beatle: Paul

How and when did you start listening to The Beatles?

I always enjoyed music of all varieties and genres and would hear about The Beatles' influence on many of my favorite artists, as well as my inner circle of friends and musicians. I decided to give them a shot in 2020 when I was 17 but I don't think I knew where to start, so I didn't quite connect with it. I tried again in early 2021 when I was 18 and was learning to get into them. It wasn't until I made a serious attempt in 2022 when I was 19 that something clicked and I just fell in love with the music, particularly the Sgt. Pepper-Let it Be era. Then, in 2023 when I was 20 I really started to listen to the Please Please Me-Revolver era and totally fell in love with it as well. Now, at 22, I still listen to all of their material.

I think a reason why I didn't initially get into them was because I didn't have much opportunity to actually sit down and listen to music. When I was 19, I was making long commutes in my car ("baby you can drive my car") and would play The Beatles. For me, listening to music in the car has been a great way to actually immerse myself in it.

Why do you love the Beatles/Why are they so important to you?

Their music brings joy and exudes youthful creativity. They're important to me because their music becomes the soundtrack to life's good times and have been soothing in the harder times.

Paul is my favorite Beatle because...

Paul is my favorite Beatle because his songs usually capture that feeling of young love.

Anything else you'd like to add or say?

The Beatles are the greatest and best band to ever exist. Nobody comes close and nobody will ever come close. This is a fact, and with the way that the nature of the music industry has changed, it was always be a fact.

Name: Lucas
Age: 15
Favorite Album: Yellow Submarine
Favorite Beatle: Paul

How and when did you start listening to The Beatles?

I started listening to the Beatles around 2022.

Why do you love the Beatles/Why are they so important to you?

Because they were the first real band I listened to, and they're what got me into music.

Paul is my favorite Beatle because...

Wonderful Christmastime is amazing.

Art by my friend, Lucas (January 15, 2026)

Green Day Don't Totally Suck (Yes, Really)

January 9, 2026

I was born in late 2009. By the time I had my first breath, all the major waves of punk had fizzled out. I missed late-60's Detroit, 70's New York, 80's hardcore and no-wave, and even the infamous "year punk broke" (1991). Joey Ramone was already history and Ron Asheton passed that year's January. So, unlike the punks before me, but very much like every kid who got into punk after 1991, I started in a very... let's just say "elementary way".

It all began in July of 2022, I was 12 years old, and my ears were introduced to the sounds of Nirvana and Green Day (the former band completely taking over my life, which is a whole other story that I will probably get around to telling another day).
Very soon after, I was listening to Bikini Kill, Dead Kennedys, and "weirder" music. When 8th grade rolled around, I was discovering Sonic Youth, "Low" by David Bowie, Daniel Johnston, Elliott Smith, and the likes. All this music coming into my life was making me begin to question my formerly unshakable love for Green Day.

If you're an appreciator of punk's roots, or even just of unconventional rock, it's very easy to shit on Green Day. And so as a guitar static loving, Steve Albini worshiping, Shonen Knife appreciating, "Blackstar" by David Bowie enjoying middle schooler (who became a fan of S.O.A. before Black Flag and was very proud of that fact), I did. I wanted to feel smart, and in this new phase of my musical life I disavowed the band that I was worshipping only a few

weeks earlier (I literally started listening to Sonic Youth in February of 2024, only one month after "Saviors" came out, an album with a release I was highly anticipating, it was quite a quick breakoff).

Safe to say, it's been a hot minute since I've listened to anything from Green Day's discography, and I've spent a lot of time looking down on them. But for some reason, I woke up this morning with the strong and sudden urge to indulge in their 90's era albums. And, honestly, I think they're really good. I'm not about to put Billie Joe up in the ranks with Iggy Pop and Kim Gordon, but their pre-Y2K era is quote solid. Allow me to elaborate...

Firstly, I was surprised at how much they remind me of The Ramones. It may be sacreligious to say, but it's true. If Joey and Johnny had some snotty Gen X brattiness to mix in with their dirty pop melodies, I'd imagine they'd sound a lot like Green Day. Wasn't juvenile boredom and apathy to the 90's what sniffing glue and dirty New York streets were to the the 70's?

It is also incredibly difficult for me to deny the merit of any solid, melodic trio (my love for Nirvana is striking again). Play any song from their '91-'97 era and it will be impossible for even the crustiest of hardcore punks to resist a toe-tap or two. Trios tend to scratch an itch (for me at least) because they have less frills to rely on. There aren't enough instruments to afford fucking around, so fucking around doesn't occur.
And even if you don't like their style, you simply cannot deny that everyone is giving their all on each instrument. Mike Dirnt stands out the most to me, MIKE DIRNT'S BASS, MAN! There is simply nothing I love more in this world than a good bassline that refuses to copy the guitar (my love for Nirvana is striking again, again). Like Krist Novoselic to Grohl and Cobain, Dirnt adds irresistable rhythm by

filling in the gaps from Billie Joe's guitar while following the groove of Tre's drums. The catchiness of their music, shameless snottiness of their lyrics, and crunchy sound is a combination I just cannot sincerely discredit.

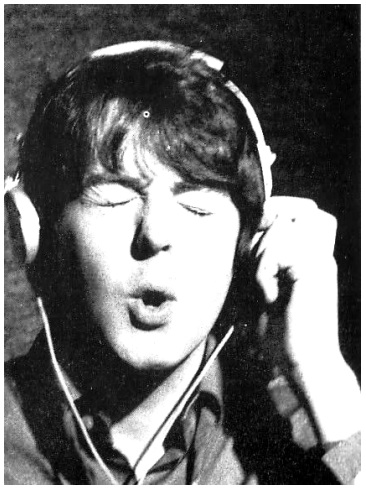
This all leads my mind to the reason why I believe me and so many others who got into punk through Green Day as tweens later grew to push the band away; *they need limitation*. There are songs I like post-"Nimrod" ("Jesus of Suburbia", "Church on Sunday", even "Living in the '20s") but there's a charm that's been lost. Their post-"Dookie" success gave them access to more tools, but I don't believe they took full advantage of those tools.
Time forces change, and they can't stay 20 years old forever, but it still feels (intentionally or not) like they're trying to stay 20. Their production grew up (by becoming slicker and slicker) but what else has? The stagnation of their music despite a changing context around their music has resulted in a perpetual watering down of their sound and lyricism.
"Redundant" was released when Billie Joe was 25, yet it feels leagues more mature than "Father to a Son" (released when he was 51).

The truth is that they stopped taking real risks, they have done nothing to challenge themselves or their audience in a long time. So when kids getting into punk decided to check out hardcore, the late-60's Detroit scene, or anything that dares to challenge

itself, Green Day get left in the dust. Billie Joe has made it very clear that he is thinking about stuff (see his endless shittalking of Donald Trump), but he could be taking his ideas further. As a group, they *could* be going further than what is expected from the band.
If Green Day want to take advantage of their talent (and make up for whatever what was happening in the 2010's) then they need to push themselves, they need to take risks. If not, the future won't be looking good for "God's Favorite Band".

Rediscovering Green Day
(The Playlist)

1) "The Grouch"(Nimrod)
2) "Brat" (Insomniac)
3) "Longview" (Dookie)
4) "Brian Stew" (Insomniac)
5) "2000 Light Years Away" (Kerplunk!)
6) "Welcome To Paradise" (Dookie)
7) "Redundant" (Nimrod)
8) "Dominated Love Slave" (Kerplunk!)
9) "At the Library" (39/Smooth)
10) "My Generation" (Kerplunk!)



Art by my friend, Zena P (January 9, 2026)

Art by my friend, Claire (January 20, 2026)

something happened on the day he died

spirit rose a metre and stepped aside

somebody else took his place, and bravely cried

I'M A BLACKSTAR

I'M A BLACKSTAR

TEN YEARS OF BLACKSTAR

i can't give everything away

i can't give everything away

i can't give everything away

i can't give everything away

i can't give everything away

i can't give everything away

i can't give everything away

i can't give everything away

i can't give everything away

i can't give everything away

i can't give everything away

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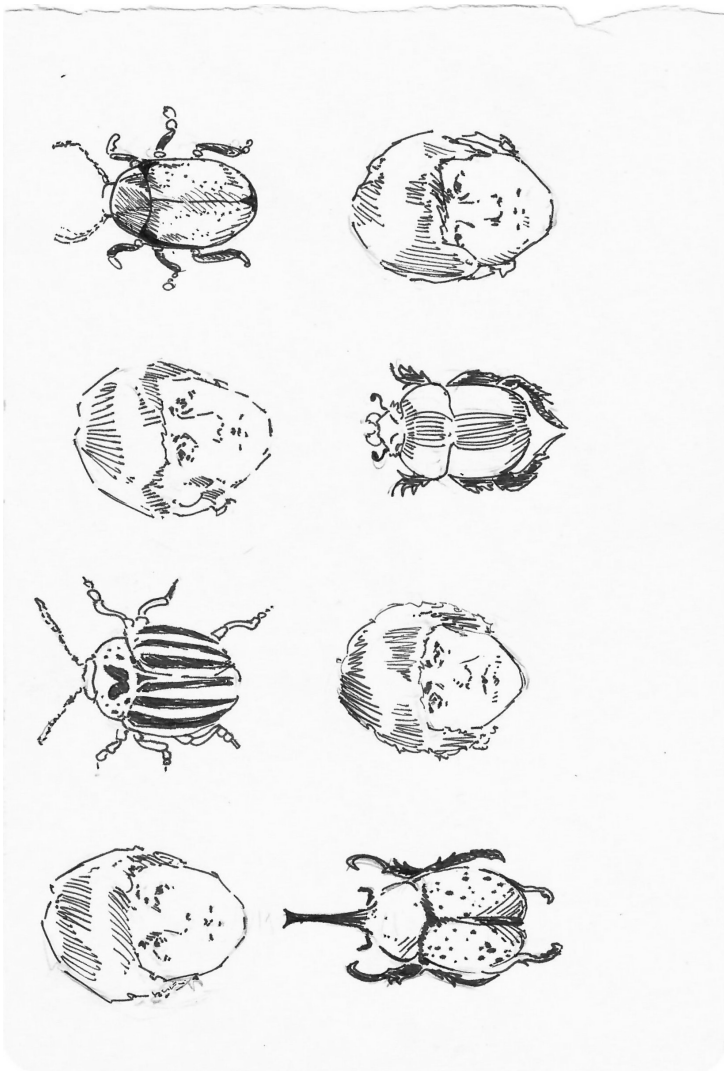
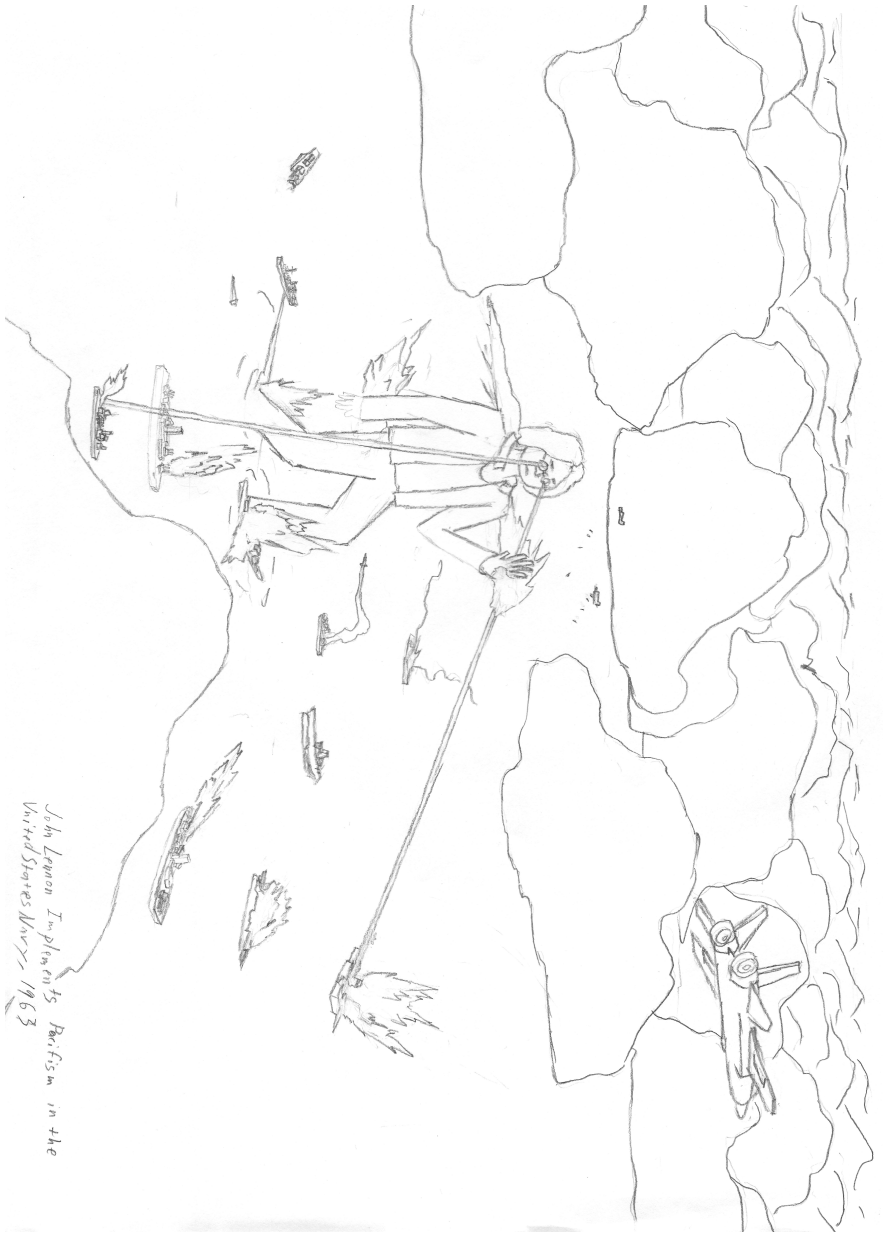


Art by my friend, Sara (January 15, 2026)



"John Lennon Implements Pacifism in the United States Navy, 1963" by Oliver (January 26, 2026)